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# ABSAROKA

## NATIONAL FOREST

### MONTANA

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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE

1925

# NATIONAL FORESTS

The national forests are what their name implies—forests belonging to the people of the Nation as a whole. To keep timber growing perpetually on these public lands, so that a supply of wood will always be available, and to protect the watersheds of streams valuable for irrigation and water power, are the two main purposes for which the forests were created. The ideal aimed at in their administration is to make them of the greatest benefit to the greatest number of people and to put all their varied resources to the highest use. Under regulations calculated to protect and maintain the various resources of the forests, mature timber is cut, water-power developments are made, and forage on the ranges is grazed by livestock. Where there are minerals, the prospector may stake his claim on a national forest as on other public land, and where there are recreational opportunities they are open to the public.

The 159 national forests in the United States comprise about 157 million acres of land, most of which was set aside from the public domain by presidential proclamation. By far the greater number of

forests are in the mountainous regions of the West, although several have been established in the East on military and other reservations and by the purchase of forest lands under an act known as the Weeks Law, which was passed by Congress in 1911 to make possible the acquisition of areas valuable for the protection of stream flow.

The national forests are administered by the Forest Service, which is a bureau of the Department of Agriculture. The directing head is the Forester, whose headquarters are at Washington, D. C. To bring the administration of the forests nearer to the actual user, eight district offices, each in charge of a district forester, are maintained. These district headquarters are located as follows: Missoula, Mont.; Denver, Colo.; Albuquerque, N. Mex.; Ogden, Utah; San Francisco, Calif.; Portland, Oreg.; Juneau, Alaska; and Washington, D. C. In addition, each national forest is under the care of a supervisor, with headquarters in a nearby town or city and with a force of rangers who attend to the details of forest administration under his direction.

GUARD AGAINST STREAM POLLUTION

# Absaroka National Forest

The Absaroka National Forest comprises 841,086 acres, in two separate bodies, which include the Crazy and the Absaroka Mountains. The forest supervisor's headquarters are in Livingston, Mont. The seven district rangers are located at West Bridger, near Reed Point; Main Boulder, near McLeod Post Office; West Boulder, 17 miles east of Livingston; Dome Mountain, near Carbella; Gardiner; Big Timber, 14 miles west of



Mining timbers decked out in a timber sale

F-199276

Melville; and Porcupine, 15 miles northeast of Wilsall.

## TIMBER

The timber on the Absaroka is estimated at 1,488,825,000 board feet. The stands of lodgepole pine, the important commercial species of the region, supply excellent timber for mine props, poles,

railroad ties, and house logs. Some fir and spruce is available to supply a limited local demand for sawed lumber.

The greater part of the timber on this forest will always be used by the settler and rancher and in the mining activities of the vicinity; but with protection from fire and with the careful cutting methods required by the Forest Service, a surplus will be available which will supply to some extent the needs of the treeless areas to the north and east. The importance of this local supply of timber is considerable, as it relieves the user from paying excessive freight bills on lumber shipped from more distant points.

Farmers and ranchers are allowed to get dead timber free for their own use, and to purchase green timber at the cost of making the sale. Sales to commercial users, such as sawmill operators and mining companies, are made on the basis of the full value of the standing timber. All trees to be cut are first marked by a forest officer, and the logs are scaled or measured before being removed from the woods.

It is the aim of the Forest Service to manage the cutting of its timber so that a second crop of trees will grow to replace

BE SURE YOUR FIRE IS OUT—DEAD OUT

those cut. Young growth is protected as far as possible from damage which might be caused by logging, and the slash made by the felling and lopping of the trees is disposed of in such a way as to minimize the fire hazard.



Counting sheep as they enter the forest

## GRAZING

Over 360,000 acres of open and partially timbered land on the Absaroka Forest are suitable for grazing and provide forage for more than 6,600 head of cattle and horses and 64,900 sheep. These cattle, horses, and sheep are owned by about 200 individual ranchers living near the forest and dependent on it for summer

range. During the winter this stock is grazed on outside pastures, at lower elevations, or fed hay and grain on the ranches nearby. The benefit to stock of the green forage, cool weather, and pure, fresh water found on these high pastures (advantages which are lacking on the lower, drier ranges in summer) is fully recognized by the stockman.

Grazing is by permit, for which a fee is charged. Preference in the use of the range is given to the owners of improved ranch property in and near the forest.

## GAME

Among the big game animals of the Absaroka National Forest are elk, deer, mountain sheep, moose, and bear. The forest is a popular hunting ground for the people from the surrounding country, as well as from distant parts, and every year numbers of deer, elk, and bear are taken by hunters.

To provide winter range for the elk which drift out from the Yellowstone National Park, 92,800 acres of range adjacent to the Park boundary have been reserved from use by domestic stock. This area is patrolled cooperatively by

LEAVE A CLEAN CAMP

the State, the National Park Service, and the Forest Service, in order to protect the elk against tooth hunters and poachers, and to afford an opportunity to study their winter feeding habits and needs.

Forest officers are deputy game wardens, and they cooperate with State officers in enforcing the game laws. They



F-174883

Elk on Slough Creek, outside of Absaroka National Forest

also cooperate with local authorities in planting fish in the streams.

## WATERSHED PROTECTION

Aside from the timber they produce, these forested areas are of immense value for their influence on stream flow. There are thousands of acres of irrigated lands in the lower valleys which depend upon

WE MUST GROW THE TIMBER WE NEED

the water of streams rising among these wooded mountains. When the heavy snows of winter melt, the water is taken up and held by the duff of the forest floor as by a great sponge. Here it is protected from evaporation by the shade of the forest trees, and is fed out gradually through the whole year, providing a never-failing supply of water. Floods in spring and after heavy rains are thus largely prevented, erosion is diminished, and a constant supply of water is furnished during the periods of summer drouth when the farmers are most in need of it for their crops.

## RECREATION

The Absaroka Forest has much to offer the recreationist. Camping spots are numerous, and there are many good fishing streams. Much of the rugged mountainous country is scarcely explored except by forest officers, and the summits of many of the peaks have seldom been reached.

Big game hunting, especially on Slough and Hellroaring Creeks, is good, and many sportsmen go there each year.

There is an automobile road up the valley of the Main Boulder River to a point

EVERYBODY LOSES WHEN TIMBER BURNS
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near the old mining town of Independence. This canyon is one of the finest from a scenic standpoint to be found in the region. A number of resorts for fishermen and vacationists have been established along the road, and there are many fine sites which are well liked by the auto camper.



Camp in Absaroka National Forest

F-190230

Interesting fossils of ancient marine life are found on some of the mountains at the lower end of this canyon.

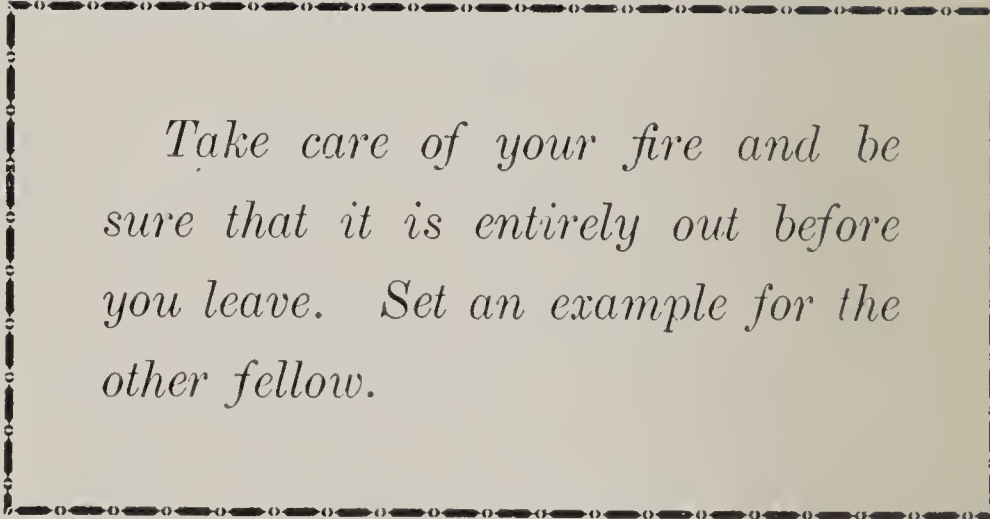
The streams entering the Yellowstone River between Livingston and Gardiner afford good fishing. Among these may be mentioned Mill, Emigrant, Six Mile, Cedar, and Bear Creeks. There are a number of hot springs in the valleys near the forest. In Mill Creek canyon is a mineral spring.

FORESTS ARE WEALTH—PUBLIC WEALTH

Care with fire in every way possible is urged. Forest officers, from the standpoint of the public good, can not overlook carelessness which endangers the forests, and must enforce the regulations requiring that fires be extinguished, that camp debris be buried or burned, and that the purity of streams be preserved. Failure to carry out any of these requirements must be dealt with promptly and impartially. At the same time, forest officers endeavor to be courteous and helpful, and assist visitors in every way possible.



LEAVES MAKE SOIL—SMOKE DOES NOT



*Take care of your fire and be  
sure that it is entirely out before  
you leave. Set an example for the  
other fellow.*

*If you cut the trees around the  
camping ground, you will soon be  
camping on a woodpile instead of  
in a cool, clean forest.*



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
W. D. GRUELEY, FORESTER

# ABSAROKA NATIONAL FOREST MONTANA

MONTANA PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN

1925

Scale 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Miles

- LEGEND
- National Forest Boundary
  - Adjacent National Forest Boundary
  - Road, fair or good
  - Road, minor or very poor
  - Trail
  - Railroad
  - Supervisor's headquarters
  - Ranger station
  - Triangulation station
  - House, cabin, or other building



KEEP THE FORESTS GREEN



PREVENT FOREST FIRES—IT PAYS